

INFORMATION REPORT

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in the Far East

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1. Delegates attending the first session of the Council of the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF) in Paris during February 1947 were:

Albania:	Mrs. Nexhmije Hoxha
Algeria:	Mme. Alice Sportisse
Austria:	Mrs. Baumgarten
Brazil:	Mrs. Alice Tibirica
Bulgaria:	Mrs. Abramova
China:	Miss TSAI Chang (Mme LI Fu-chun)
Cuba:	Mrs. Lolo Soldevilla
Czechoslovakia:	Mrs. Znezka Hodinova
	Mme. Horakova
	Mrs. Trojanova
France:	Mrs. Diamant
	Mrs. Francoise Louise Leclercq
	Mrs. Jeanette Vermeersch (wife of Maurice Thorez)
Greece:	Mrs. Joannides
Hungary:	Mrs. Boris Fai
India:	Mrs. Handoo
	Mrs. Lydia Kanuga
Italy:	Mrs. Ravera
	Mrs. Romita
Mexico:	Mrs. Jimenes Esponda
Palestine:	Mme. Polak
Poland:	Mrs. Dluska
	Mme. Eugenia Pragerova
	Mrs. Dr. Irena Sztacholska
Portugal:	Mrs. Martins
Rumania:	Mrs. Galine
	Mrs. Ana Pauker
Spain:	Mrs. Victoria Kent
Sweden:	Mrs. Andrea Andgren
Trieste:	Mrs. Smokovitch

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Union of South Africa:	Mrs. Hilda Watts
USSR:	Mrs. Beliaeva
	Mrs. Parfenova
	Mrs. Petrova
	Mrs. Nina Popova
USA:	Mrs. Eleanor S. Gimbel
Viet Nam:	Mrs. Dao Van Chau
Yugoslavia:	Mrs. Mitra Mitrovitch (also Mitrovic)

2. The first contact between the WIDF and the Far East, other than the attendance of the Chinese, Indian and Viet Nam delegates at the Paris meeting was in March 1947. At that time an appeal was forwarded to various WIDF affiliates urging the withdrawal of foreign troops from Greece. One of the recipients of this appeal was a Chinese Communist in Hong Kong who, at one time, had been secretary to CHOU En-lai. A communication was also addressed by the WIDF to the Chinese Communist Party representative in Nanking in an effort to contact Mme. CHOU En-lai and the "liberated areas".
3. In August 1947 Ginette Delmas arrived in Singapore traveling under what appeared to be semi-official French auspices. She was stated to be a journalist but according to information received at a later date she was also a representative of the WIDF. She was given a reception by the Singapore Chinese Women's Federation at which she spoke urging the Women's Associations to join the WIDF. Shortly afterward the left-wing Singapore Chinese Women's Federation applied to WIDF for affiliation. By January 1948 a Liaison Bureau was established in Singapore for the Women's Association of Malaya. Correspondence from the WIDF to women's organizations in Malaya has been addressed to the Malayan Communist Party offices.
4. In Hong Kong the WIDF has an affiliate in the Hong Kong and Kowloon Women's Fraternity Association which shares premises with the National Student Federation of China. The Hong Kong and Kowloon Women's Fraternity Association is connected with well-known Chinese Communists in Hong Kong.
5. In December 1947 the WIDF proposed sending a "Fact Finding Commission" to tour India, Pakistan, Viet Nam, Malaya and Indonesia in order to report on the living conditions of women and children in those countries. Members of the Commission were to be drawn from America, Algeria, China, France, the United Kingdom and the USSR. Of the group the following members were identified:

Mme. Simone Bertrand (Bernard), representing the coordinating committee of the WIDF.

Mme. Tamara Marakova (Morozova), representing the Soviet Women's Anti-Fascist Committee.

Mrs. Zelma Brandt, member of the Congress of American Women.*

Talitha Gerlach, secretary of the World-Wide division of the YWCA.

Agnes Smedley.

Dr. May Tilney Miles (Pat Miles), nee Barrett, a British delegate and a Communist.

Eileen Joyce Haworth, an ex-student in England.

In the early part of 1948 the party, led by Mme. Simone Bertrand, toured India, Burma and Malaya.

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6. At the second Congress of the WIDF which took place in Budapest during the first week of December 1948, certain important decisions were made relative to the intensification of WIDF activity in the Far East. The links between the WIDF and the women of Asia had been strengthened and six new affiliations had been made in India, Pakistan, Burma, Malaya, Siam and Israel. In addition, contact was made for the first time with women's organizations in the Philippines, Ceylon and Cyprus. The number of organizations in Asia affiliated with the WIDF now totals thirteen.
7. Part of the proceedings of the second Congress held in Budapest was devoted to a preliminary discussion of a proposed conference to be held in Asia. It was decided that the Conference of the Women of Asia should be held as soon as possible, at least before September 1949, and there was a general desire that it be held in China. A Preparatory Committee, representative of all member groups of the WIDF in Asia was set up and within it a Working Committee. One of the Secretaries of the WIDF will also sit on this Committee which will go to the country chosen as the venue of the Conference two months before the opening date. Each country participating in the Conference will set up a National Committee which will undertake a campaign to ensure support for the Conference. In addition, a propaganda campaign on an international scale will be started to give the Conference publicity.
8. The WIDF wishes to contact the women of Asia who have not been brought into the WIDF fold. These include Japan and Afghanistan, and in the Middle East, Turkey and Iraq. The conduct of the campaign to extend the scope of the WIDF is to be entrusted to a new special section to be known as the "International Commission of the Women of Asia and Africa". A small working committee of the Commission composed of members from China, Viet Nam, France, Egypt, Iran and the USA is already functioning in Paris. Other countries have been asked to appoint delegates who will work in their respective countries and make reports to the committee in Paris.
9. The "International Commission of the Women of Asia and Africa" has obviously been designed to parallel the "Bureau of Students Fighting Against Colonization" which was set up by the International Union of Students and the World Federation of Democratic Youth. The Bureau of Students Fighting Against Colonization was set up to coordinate the activities of anti-"Imperialist" youth movements in the countries to which Russia and her satellites have no direct and easy access.

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* ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. Mrs. Brandt claimed to represent the New School of Social Research in New York.

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